THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Two project proposals namely, Mongra irrigation project and Sutiapat Reservoir Project were received in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal from the Government of Chhattisgarh. Both the projects have been found acceptable by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects including modernisation of Canals are planned, investigated, funded, executed, operated and maintained by the State Governments themeselves as per their own priorities.

Water supply for agriculture

2316. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the total water supply in our country is used for agriculture against 70 per cent in the world;

(b) whether considering the large amount of water used for irrigation as India's irrigated area is more than 20 per cent of the world area under irrigation, there is an urgent need for conservation and efficient use of these resources; and

(c) if so, what are Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) About 83% of utilizable water in the country is being used for irrigation at present against 69% in the world.

(b) and (c) Yes, there is an urgent need for conservation and efficient use of water resources. The National Water Policy adopted by the Government of India in 2002 stipulates that "efficiency of utilisation in all the diverse uses of water should be optimized and an awareness of water as a scarce resource should be fostered. Conservation consciousness should be promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives. The resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximizing retention, eliminating pollution and minimising

losses. For this, measures like selective lining in the conveyance system, modernisation and rehabilitation of existing systems including tanks, recycling and re-use of treated effluents and adoption of traditional techniques like mulching or pitcher irrigation and new techniques like drip and sprinkler may be promoted, wherever feasible." The Prime Minister has also made an appeal to the Nation for making water conservation a National Mission. The Government encourages various measures for conservation and efficient use of water.

Water consumption in Thermal Power Plants

2317. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recenty study on water resources in our country, Thermal Power Plants consume 87.87 per cent of the water consumed by the industry;

(b) whether it is fact that this water is consumed inefficiently and the consumption per power unit is 8 times that of international standards and costs a pittance; and

(c) if so, what are Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) As per assessment made by the "National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan", the consumption of water by Power Plants is about 30% of that by the industries.

(b) Thermal Power Stations consume relatively higher amount of water for condensation of steam and for cooling of auxiliaries and ash disposal. Most of the old power stations have a once through cooling system where though large cooling water is drawn from the water body and most of it is discharged back to the water body after circulation through the cooling system. As such, a very small quantity of 2-3% of the total water drawn is actually consumed. Due to ambient conditions of higher temperature, heat rejection in stations in India is higher which increases the cooling water requirement.